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Small-scale Farmers and Women Empowerment in the Near East and North Africa Region

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agriculture is a vital economic and social sector in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Region, contributing on average 14 percent of the GDP (excluding oil rich countries) and providing jobs and incomes for 38 percent of the region economically active population. Small-scale Agriculture (SSA) provides more than 80 percent of the agricultural production and plays an important role in food security, poverty alleviation and in sustainable management of natural resources. SSA evolution in the region displays many of the patterns observed in other developing countries. The number of smallholders is increasing while the sizes of the holdings are shrinking. Women share in the agriculture labour force is important, but their access to landownership and other services remains heavily constrained. Ageing farmer's population, limited access to social protection, to assets, to financial services, to markets, to effective extension services and weak farmers' organization are severely constraining the development of SSA and limiting opportunities for youth employment in agriculture. Despite the many constraints it is facing, small-scale agriculture can still play an important role in food security, economic growth, poverty alleviation and have the potential to create decent jobs for women and men in rural areas. Building on recent studies and regional consultations on family farming and small-scale agriculture, this paper puts forward an agenda for action to support sustainable development of small-scale agriculture in the NENA region

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Guidance sought from the conference

The conference may wish to:

1. Welcome the vast regional consultation process undertaken by FAO with member countries for the formulation of the agenda for action for sustainable development of Small Scale Agriculture (SSA) in Near East and North Africa (NENA).
2. Endorse the agenda for action and call on countries to develop comprehensive national action plans for its implementation with the support of FAO and partners.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The world's population, about 7.2 billion, lives from agricultural production systems represented by over 570 million farms around the world. Small scale agriculture represents the majority of farming systems in the world. Globally, 73 percent of the farmers have less than 1 ha whereas 85 percent dispose of less than 2 ha. Small holders contribute a large part of agriculture production in the developing world, and play a fundamental role in food security, economic growth, employment generation and poverty alleviation.
2. As the world population is set to reach 9 billion in 2030, questions emerge to whether SSA can still have a major role in feeding the world and in achieving the sustainable development goals. These questions are particularly important in the context of the NENA region, where population growth is amongst the highest in the world and where small holders play a vital role in agriculture development, but are confronted with massive challenges, not least the scarcity and fragility of natural resources and the climate change threat.
3. This paper seeks to address these questions and to put forward a framework for action to support the development of SSA for inclusive development in the NENA region. The paper builds on the findings of recent studies undertaken in Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and Sudan and on several regional consultations on family farming and small-scale agriculture. The paper is structured around three main sections. Section I reviews the main trends that have affected the evolution of SSA; Section II analyses the main challenges confronting sustainable development of SSA; section III outlines an agenda for action for the sustainable and inclusive development of SSA.
4. There is no simple definition of SSA. Small farms are very diverse and complex even within the same geographical area. "Small" often refers to the land size, but the definition of small-scale agriculture can also be related to capital invested or its revenue and family in terms of management and labour force. This paper follows the consensus among practitioners and uses small holding as a proxy to small-scale agriculture and family farming¹. These terms will be used indifferently in the following sections.

II. MAJOR TRENDS AFFECTING SSA IN THE NENA

5. The current and prospective roles of SSA in food security and poverty alleviation in NENA is intimately intertwined with the trends shaping the food security situation and the transformation in the agriculture sector, in the broad context of the economic development. Five major trends emerge from the vast review process undertaken in the context of the FAO regional initiatives: dwindling water resources and changing regional food security context; persistence of deep rural poverty, despite the economic progresses made by the region; the transformation in the agriculture

¹ FAO 2013. Near East and North Africa Region: Outcome of the Regional Dialogue on Family farming.

sector and the increasing role of the small-scale agriculture; greater role of women in the agriculture labour force; youth unemployment and migration.

Dwindling water resources and changing regional food security context

6. The NENA region is characterized by a high population growth (2 percent per annum compared to a world average of 1.2 percent) and the fragility of its natural resource. The region's population currently estimated at about 400 million is expected to reach 600 million by 2050. Both per capita fresh water availability and land availability are the lowest in the world and stands at just 10 percent and 20 percent of world average, respectively.
7. Fourteen countries in the region have achieved the Millennium Development Goal hunger target, but the region as a whole has witnessed a dramatic set back in its fight against hunger. The prevalence of food insecurity has more than doubled since 1991-92, essentially because of conflicts and protracted crisis. Despite high average calorie intakes, the region continues to suffer from various forms of malnutrition, from chronic malnutrition to obesity.
8. Population growth, along with increasing urbanization and changing consumption patterns will lead to an increase in food demand and reduced land and water availability. The region imports already 50 percent of the calories it consumes. Trends in production and consumption of food suggest an increasing dependency of the NENA region on external sources for its basic food supplies. Nine countries from the NENA region, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Yemen, spend over 20 percent of their exports' earnings on food imports.
9. The high and increasing dependency on imports of basic food commodities is already making the NENA countries highly vulnerable to volatility in international food prices and to global food supply restrictions. This has also generated questions on the potential of the local agriculture sector, and in particular of small holders, to increase production and productivity and to play a more important role in assuring food security and nutrition in the region.

The persistence of deep rural poverty context

10. Forty-three percent of the NENA region's population live in rural areas². Despite the progresses made by almost all countries in the region, Rural Poverty remains widespread in the region and is closely associated with the typology of farming systems and the type of livelihoods. Poverty is particularly widespread in Highland-, Dryland- and Pastoral Systems.

² World Bank (2015)

Table 1: Main farming systems of the NENA region

Farming system	% of the region's		Main livelihoods	Prevalence of poverty
	Land area	Agricultural Population		
Irrigated	2	17	Fruit, vegetables, cash crops	Moderate
Highland mixed	7	30	Cereals, legumes, sheep, off-farm	Extensive
Rainfed mixed	2	18	Tree crops, cereals, legumes, off-farm	Moderate
Dryland mixed	4	14	Cereals, sheep, off-farm work	Extensive
Pastoral	23	9	Camels, sheep, off-farm work	Extensive
Arid zones	62	5	Camels, sheep, off-farm work	Limited

Source: FAORNE (2015): Towards a Collaborative Strategy on Sustainable Agriculture Water Management and Food Security in the Near East and North Africa. Second Edition, FAO 2015

11. The proportion of rural population living under the national poverty line is considerably larger in rural areas than urban, and the gap between the two has increased in almost all countries. The high prevalence of rural poverty is also closely associated with the limited access to assets, education, health, land and water, credit, as well as to infrastructure and social protection. Small-scale farmers with no access to an irrigation source and net food buyers are amongst the poorest groups of the population in the region.
12. Poverty is a challenge but could also be an opportunity. The large number of poor in the rural and urban areas represents a potentially big internal market for small-scale agriculture and for agribusiness. Harnessing this potential can generate rapid economic growth thus contributing to food security, employment and to alleviating poverty as well as to slowing migration.

The transformation in the agriculture sector and the increasing role of small-scale agriculture

13. The agriculture sector, including livestock, is a major pillar of the economies of the NENA Region. In 2012, the sector contributed to almost 50 percent of food supply, 13 percent, on average to the Regional GDP, 34 percent to employment; Agriculture contributes significantly to export earnings in several countries in the region and is the main source of livelihoods for the rural population in most countries. There is, however, a remarkable diversity amongst countries. In Sudan and Syria, agriculture contribution to the GDP is more than 20 percent; In Egypt, Iran, Mauritania, and Morocco is more than 10 percent, while it is above 5 percent in Algeria, Iraq, Tunisia and Yemen.
14. The agriculture share in the region fast expanding economies has been steadily declining, as a result of the modernization and urbanization, and as a result of the importance of the oil and mineral sectors. The share of the agriculture sector in 2014 represents just half of its level two decades ago. At the same time, agriculture production has been steadily increasing over the last two decades, on average between 3-4 percent per annum. This evolution is consistent with the “classical transformation pathway” that has occurred historically in other regions³.
15. The decline in the agriculture share in the economy and in employment indicates that unless new employment opportunities are generated in the rural and urban sectors at paces high enough to

³ World Bank (2008):

absorb the labor force released by the agriculture sector, unemployment and migration may become permanent feature of the socio-economic context in the region.

16. Small-scale agriculture is not well recognized in the statistical systems of the countries in the region and there is no uniform definition or characterization of smallholders across the region. In Egypt, 3 *feddans* has been set by the policy makers as the threshold for small-scale holders because are exempt from agricultural land taxes; this category of holders has increased from 77.9 percent to 84.3 percent compared with the total number of holders in Egypt between 1990 and 2010 censuses; while the average holding area has declined from 1.14 to 0.91 *feddans*. In Lebanon 70 percent of farms are less than 10 *donums* while 0.8 percent of the farms are over 200 *donums*. In Mauritania, SSA is defined by traditional rainfed and irrigated agriculture. In Morocco, large farms have more than 50 ha under rainfed and 20 ha under irrigation. In Tunisia 78 percent of all farms are family farming, the vast majority of which has more than 10 ha. In Sudan, rainfed SSA is the traditional form of agriculture.
17. Small-scale agriculture provides more than 80percent of the agriculture production in NENA. Farms of less than one ha represent 60 percent of total holdings. In eight countries surveyed under the SSA Regional Initiative, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and Yemen, family farms with less than five ha represent on average 84.2 percent of total holdings, but control only 25.3 percent of the cultivated area. The average land holding size in NENA has decreased in the past decades, simultaneously to the increase in the number of small-scale farmers, despite the expansion of the total agricultural land.
18. The coexistence of small-scale agriculture and large and often modern farms is a reality in most countries of the region. Large farms control a significant proportion of the cultivated land, but there are important variations between countries, linked in particular to the density of the population. While family farmers tend to produce for their own consumption and for the local markets, large modern farms tend to produce for both national and export markets. They also tend to have higher productivity per worker and to be more profitable. In Morocco the average large modern farm earns about 9 times the average of the traditional family farm per Ha.
19. The divergence in performances between the two systems poses a major dilemma as to whether to favour production for the market and exports earnings over food security and employment. The structural adjustment and the liberalization policies pursued in the 80's and 90's have tended to favour large farms, through better access to land, water and credit.
20. The increased focus on the positive role family farming has played and can play in food security; poverty alleviation and employment are now challenging this vision. In addition, There is now more information available on the multifunctional performance of small scale agriculture, integrating socio-economic, environmental and cultural dimensions, which suggest that investments in small scale agriculture will be beneficial for the environment and for global economy of some of the countries in the region. In Egypt and Morocco small-scale agriculture has become a priority.

Gender role in small-scale agriculture

21. The share of women as land owners in NENA and their participation in SSA are not well documented and acknowledged. Women employed in agriculture are usually considered as unpaid family labour and are often not captured by statistics. Despite these limitations, available data indicate a significant rise in the female share of the agricultural labour force in the NENA, from 34 percent 1995 to almost 45 percent in 2011, while men's contribution has considerably decreased from 66 to 55 percent during the same period. In several NENA countries, the share of women employed in agriculture is higher than the one for men.

22. Women are often engaged in family farming manual activities, especially in production, storing and processing, in animal husbandry and less in marketing. They also participate in harvesting activities, usually helped by their children.
23. Many studies indicate that women rarely own land in the region: for instance women landowners represent 6.4 percent in Tunisia, 4.4 percent in Morocco, 4.1 percent in Algeria, 4 percent in Egypt, 3 percent in Jordan and 0.8 percent in Saudi Arabia. Three-quarters of those women are smallholders. When women do own land, they tend to assign their land rights in return to a portion of the land's revenues. Generally, the farms owned by women tend to be smaller in size and of poorer quality than the ones owned by men. Inheritance legislation and social customs are greatly responsible for the low percentage of women as landowners in the NENA region. Land fragmentation poses a special problem for women who are hampered by social norms from moving among plots that may be far from one another.
24. Women have even greater difficulties than men in obtaining credit. There is often a requirement of husband's agreement that may not be forthcoming; illiteracy is another obstacle in particular for old women; often women have to form associations to access credit, but this organizational requirement is time consuming and requires external assistance.
25. Rural women have little access to extensions services. Most extension programs lack qualified personnel and have limited capacity to mainstream gender in policies, programs and implementation strategies. The design of many extension programs has not taken women's cultural and time constraints into account. Consequently, women's opportunities to express their needs and to have them met are more limited than those of men

Youth Unemployment, ageing agriculture population and rural urban migration

26. Despite improving economic conditions, youth unemployment remains daunting in the NENA region and beyond. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated youth unemployment in the region at 28.3 percent in 2012 and expects that number to top 30 percent by 2018.. Unemployment is even more severe amongst youth female reaching on average 43.6% in 2014.
27. Rural youth unemployment and youth exodus are common in the region. Lack of effective policies that promotes integrated rural development, supports small holder agriculture and business in rural areas, addresses youth needs are at the root causes of rural youth unemployment and migration.
28. For example, labour law generally do not apply to agriculture, especially to self-employed agricultural producers. When they exist, the agriculture labour laws may not be fully known by agricultural labourers. As a result, large numbers of farmers and agricultural workers are excluded from benefitting from labour rights and from any form of social protection;
29. Lack of social security is a major driver for farmers to remain active as long as possible which, in turn, is blocking a smooth succession between generations, fuelling youth unemployment in rural areas and depriving the agriculture sector of a more productive and skilled labor force. In Egypt, for example, the ratio of landowner age groups below 45 years to the age groups above 50 years is decreasing and this trend is common in the region.
30. The generally depressed economic context of the rural sector in the region and the absence of decent job opportunities in on-farm and off-farm activities for the youth that are better educated and that hold high expectations are the major driving force of migration in the region. NENA is the source of 20 million first-generation migrants, half of them now living in another NENA country and the rest mostly in Europe.
31. Trends in youth unemployment and migration are amongst the most important factors impacting the economic development and the stability of the region. These trends are likely to be compounded by increased water scarcity, climate change impacts, frequency of droughts and the knock-on effects of crisis and conflicts in the region on economic growth and food security.

32. Sustainable development of SSA can play an important role in mitigating youth unemployment and migration. It requires the implementation of a set of integrated policies to harness the potential of smallholders to play a central role in food systems and value chains, as well as a shift in public investment to prioritize rural areas, improve infrastructures, access to health and education and vocational training, research and extension.

III. THE STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES FACING SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE IN THE NENA COUNTRIES

33. Regional dialogues encompassing on family farming and on SSA and studies in focus countries have identified six major challenges confronting the sustainable development of small-scale agriculture: natural resource management and climate change; access to credit and investment resources; access to market and value chains; access to social protection; governance and institutions; and Research and Extension.

Natural resource management and climate change

34. Water is the binding factor for agriculture production in the region. It is expected that climate change will further increase the aridity of the region, the occurrence of drought and reduce the supply of ground water. The likely impacts are reduction of yields, increased salinization and desertification.
35. Farmers in the region, building on centuries of accumulated experiences, are already adapting to higher temperatures by adjusting planting times. Public and private investment are however needed in Research & Development and extension to support the introducing and dissemination of new varieties that are more heat-resistant, to promote good agriculture practices and to implement drought early warning and preparedness plans.
36. Social protection measures based on sound risks management are also needed to mitigate the impacts of climate change on small-scale farmers' incomes and in, the extreme circumstances, to support the exiting out of vulnerable farmers from agriculture.

Access to credit and investment resources

37. The regional dialogue on family farming has identified access to financing as the most important constraint facing family farmers in the Region. Credit to agriculture is generally very low when compared to credit to the rest of the economy. In Egypt, Morocco and Sudan, three large agricultural countries, agriculture's share of credit (adjusted for its contribution to GDP) is less than one-fifth of the average for the whole economy. This data underestimates the magnitude of the problem facing family farmers because a large proportion of agricultural credit goes to large modern farms.
38. In addition, existing financial institutions, credit instruments and bank procedures are not suited to the needs of small-scale family farmers. Small-scale farmers are generally not able to provide guarantees and collaterals that banks require to lend, since many family farmers do not have notarized land titles. The amounts of credit required by individual family farmers are usually small and are not of interest to banks. Moreover, the banking system considers agriculture to be too risky and avoid lending to small farmers and the same applies to the insurance. There are however several positive experiences of rural credit in the region, including Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Sudan.

Access to Markets and Values Chains

39. The NENA regional dialogue on family farming has underscored the importance of access of small holders to markets as well as the importance of retaining an increased share of value added at the farm level. There is a variety of experiences in the region as far as farmers' access to market is considered. While most countries in the region have specific incentives for strategic crops, in particular wheat, there is little support for other farming systems and commodities. A territorial approach to food systems is recommended. Local production for local consumption will generate value addition at local level as well and create employment opportunities
40. Constraints to access to market range from the poor organization of the internal wholesale markets to issues of quality of products and their conformity to the requested standards, to poor storage and transportation infrastructure which causes massive food losses, to problems of processing.
41. Approaches to access of smallholders to markets should consider both the internal and international markets. Best practices include policies that encourage Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), improve the quality of products for both local diet and exports, strengthen producers' organization to improve the bargaining power of farmers and promote public private partnerships in the organization of local markets.
42. Contract farming that associates large and smallholders can be an effective pathway to connect small-scale agriculture with export markets, at the condition however that they establish a fair partnership and are not a means to transfer risks from large firm to family farmers. There are several contract farming experiences in the region, including in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. These experiences need to be documented and analysed and their positive impacts scaled-up.

Social protection

43. NENA Countries have traditionally relied heavily on the use of food and fuel prices subsidies. Government -led programmes of cash for food, food vouchers, and income monetary or in-kind transfers represented only 12.5 percent of the public spending on social safety nets in 2010. These safety nets programme benefit rural poor and improve household's food security, but do actually little to build assets or generate sustainable income for the poor
44. Countries have embarked in reforming their food subsidies and are now moving progressively towards to more targeted *conditional and unconditional* Cash Transfer programmes (CCTs and UCTs), with a focus on asset building and women empowerment. Morocco *Tayssir* programme and Egypt *Takaful programme* are examples of such programmes. Several of these programmes have been complemented with significant investments to enhance the supply and quality of public services and with initiatives to enhance productivity. Although cash transfers are excellent means to uplift people from poverty and situation of stress and vulnerability, they cannot alone ensure a break of poverty cycle and should be integrated into more comprehensive rural development strategies.

Governance and Institutions

45. The absence of legal titles for small family farmers is impeding smallholder's access to credit and limiting the opportunities for investments. The restricted access to land and its natural resources is among the biggest constraints faced by small farm holders in the region⁶; although agrarian reforms took place in some countries such as Egypt and Tunisia, land ownership for small-scale farmers is still subject to many restrictions. In some countries land continues to be legally owned by the state and farmers are considered as tenants, although they often lack a legal document proving this relationship. The inheritance laws that divide land among surviving children and the absence of well-functioning land markets that allow consolidation compound the fragmentation and the land ownership problems.
46. Pastoral Land is pivotal to the livelihood of herders; without grazing land, they cannot feed their animals nor cultivate subsistence crops. Land entitlement is key to sustainable pastoral herding and

consequently to herders' livelihood. Securing land rights is critical for revitalizing the rural economy.

47. The lack of a proper status for small-scale farming, the absence of a legal and institutional framework that incentivize strong collective actions explain the weakness of producer organizations, cooperatives and civil society in the region as compared to other regions, such as Latin America. Strengthening producer organizations can be an effective mean to addressing problems caused by the large number of small dispersed family farms, by generating economies of scale and by facilitating access to markets, credit and technology.
48. Producer organizations, when effectively structured, can be a strong voice for smallholders an effective partner to Governments and development partners. Countries in the region are increasingly aware of the importance of producers' organizations as attested by Egypt cooperatives' reform and by *Maroc Plan Vert*, among other experiences.

Agriculture Productivity, Research and Extension

49. Increase in small scale agriculture productivity, including the reduction of losses, is an important contribution for small holders to move out of poverty⁴. Gains in agriculture production does not only translate into higher incomes for farmers, but are also transmitted to the rest of the economy through food prices effects and multiplier effect. Interventions that improve access of smallholders to land, skills, markets and in particular, to high value markets that strengthen producers' organizations, contributing to improving farmers' productivity and incomes.
50. Productivity of family farmers in the Region is lagging behind partly because of lack of access to appropriate modern technology. Many studies show that the return to investment in agricultural research is typically very high and it is estimated at 36 percent for Arab countries. However, the Region's investment in research is only about 0.5 percent of agricultural GDP, which is far below the rate of about 2.4 percent observed in OECD countries and the 1.5 percent observed in successful Latin American countries⁵
51. Even when research is carried out successfully, its results are not adequately transmitted to small family farmers. Most extension services in the region are not sufficiently funded and not always effective. Research and Extension services across the region needs to be reformed. There is a need to promote innovative and participatory models of research and extension institutions with approaches such as the farmer field schools that recognize farmers as agents of change and innovation. It also requires to promote rural communication services to support innovation and to enhance the capacity of rural institutions and family farmers to utilize the new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to access and share agricultural information . The integrated use of ICTs, radio and television programs to provide information to farmers in Egypt is as an example of good practice to follow in this area.
52. Better research, extension and rural communication services are particularly needed to help family farmers adapt to the impact of climate change, harness the potential of agro-ecology, upscale adoption of technologies that use water in a more sustainable way.

IV. A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

⁴ World Bank (2008): World Development Report 2008. Agriculture for Development. The World Bank. Washington DC.

⁵ FAO, IFAD, World Bank (2009): Improving Food Security in Arab Countries. World Bank Washington DC

53. Agriculture sector plays a fundamental role in the economic development process, although this role is bound to change over time to account for the structural transformation in the economies and societies of the region. Small-scale agriculture is the predominant form of farming in the region and the main provider of employment. Contrary to some predictions derived from experiences in developed countries, the importance and, sometimes, the number of smallholders in the region is not decreasing as countries develop. Countries in the region need to recognize this reality and to develop and implement strategies and policies that promote the sustainable and inclusive development of SSA.
54. In the complex context of the region marked by scarce and fragile natural resources, the likelihood of severe impacts of climate change, conflicts and protracted crisis, a transformative agenda for sustainable and inclusive development of small-scale agriculture should aim at improving the contribution of SSA to food security and poverty reduction challenges, reduce youth unemployment and migration and, at building resilience of small holders to shocks and crisis.
55. The proposed priority of interventions, taking into account, the challenges faced by small holders as well as best practices include eight main axes: Sustainable Increase of Agriculture Productivity and Diversification of Food Production, Access to Markets and Credit, Agri-food Value Chain In rural areas, Investment in Public services, Social Protection, Youth Employment, Women empowerment, Sustainable Natural Resource Management for Climate Change adaptation and Governance and Institutions This agenda would require to put the farmers at the centre of the agriculture development process by strengthening the role of farmers organizations; it would also require a shift in public investment to favour rural sector and bring the infrastructure in rural areas at de par with urban areas.

Table 2: Axes of Interventions in the Small-Scale Agriculture

Axes of Interventions	Activities	Expected Impact
Sustainable Increase of Agriculture Productivity and Diversification of Food Production	<p>Augment availability of technologies and institutional options for sustainable production and environment protection;</p> <p>Improve efficiency in different farming systems;</p> <p>Adapt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to local agro-ecosystems;</p> <p>Disseminate adapted technologies through participatory extension models and rural communication services;</p> <p>Improve nutrition and health behaviour through education;</p> <p>Diversify local food production and provide incentives for production and consumption of nutritious and vitamin-rich food;</p> <p>Introduce and adopt sustainable food loss practices.</p>	<p>Food Security and nutrition improved and rural poverty reduced</p> <p><i>Agriculture production increased</i></p>
Access to Markets and Credit	<p>Expand rural finance services for small-scale farmers;</p> <p>Promote mutual credit and incentive development of modern rural banking;</p>	<p>Rural poverty reduced</p> <p><i>Rural Income improved</i></p> <p><i>Productivity improved</i></p>

	<p>Promote entrepreneurship and support farming as a business;</p> <p>Link small and large farms agribusiness, including through contractual farming;</p> <p>Capacity building programmes for small-scale producers on marketing;</p> <p>Enhancing food safety norms for local and export markets;</p> <p>Strengthen roles of farmers' organizations.</p>	
Agri-food Value Chain In rural areas	<p>Provide incentives to support private investment in agribusiness in rural areas;</p> <p>Promote efficient and sustainable food systems, strengthening integration and efficiency along the value chain and reducing food loss and waste;</p> <p>Reinforce local value chains, processing and marketing of local products for community-based empowerment;</p> <p>Strengthen roles of cooperatives and farmers' associations along the value chains.</p>	<p>Poverty Reduced</p> <p><i>Increased Value addition in Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Employment opportunity generated</i></p> <p><i>Farmers' associations strengthened</i></p> <p><i>Youth unemployment and migration reduced</i></p>
Investment in Public services	<p>Provide qualitative services in education, health and sanitation for the rural communities;</p> <p>Secure access to reliable rural infrastructure such as transport, electricity and water;</p> <p>Increase investment in rural and urban planning.</p>	<p>Food security improved and rural poverty reduced.</p> <p>Resilience of rural poor strengthened.</p> <p><i>Access of poor to human capital and to physical assets improved</i></p>
Social Protection	<p>Reinforce conditional and unconditional cash programmes linked with productive assets building (education, health, public work);</p> <p>Strengthen progressively contributory systems that provide cover for designated contingencies affecting household welfare or income;</p> <p>Advocate for efficient social insurance (pension schemes,...) and social protection mechanisms (safety nets, food vouchers, unconditional cash transfers) for rural population.</p>	<p>Food security improved and rural poverty reduced</p> <p><i>Youth unemployment reduced</i></p>

Youth Employment	<p>Support development of small enterprises in rural areas;</p> <p>Promote and provide targeted capacity building to support youth entrepreneurship;</p> <p>Support programmes to increase access of youth to credit;</p> <p>Provide formal/informal education for filling skill gaps in rural economic activities;</p> <p>Provide insurance/safety net for ageing farmers to encourage youth's engagement in agriculture.</p>	<p>Rural Poverty reduced</p> <p><i>Increased opportunities and interest for youth in the rural context and decreased youth unemployment reduced</i></p> <p><i>Migration reduced</i></p>
Women empowerment	<p>Develop and implement comprehensive strategies that address gender inequalities in rural areas;</p> <p>Increase women's farmer participation in policy consultations and in the labour market;</p> <p>Review existing laws and regulations to increase access of women to land;</p> <p>Implement programmes that enhance access of women to microfinance, credit and insurance;</p> <p>Develop and implement targeted capacity building programmes to strengthen the professionalization of rural women cooperatives and associations;</p> <p>Enhance women's role in processing, marketing and along value chains;</p> <p>Enhance access of women to extension and communication services and provide technology and communication materials tailored to women needs.</p>	<p>Food security improved and rural poverty reduced.</p> <p>Rural women resilience strengthened</p> <p><i>Rural women economic role strengthened</i></p> <p><i>Gender inequalities reduced</i></p> <p><i>Agriculture production increased</i></p> <p><i>Employment opportunities for rural women created</i></p>
Sustainable Natural Resource Management for Climate Change adaptation	<p>Improve technologies and NRM practices for local ecosystems;</p> <p>Securing sustainable access and proper use of water and land;</p> <p>Develop drought early warning systems and drought preparedness strategies;</p> <p>Develop risks management strategies in relation to natural calamities;</p> <p>Knowledge dissemination for climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>	<p>Resilience of rural poor strengthened;</p> <p>Food security improved</p> <p><i>Small holders production and productivity increased</i></p> <p><i>Small-scale farmers' resilience changes shocks strengthened.</i></p>
Governance and Institutions	<p>Recognize the multifunctional performance of small scale agriculture (integrating socio-economic, environmental and cultural dimensions) and develop statistical instruments, methodologies and the evidence to better understand, characterize and measure the contribution of small scale agriculture</p>	<p>Rural Poverty reduced</p> <p><i>Small-scale farmers views better represented in decision making process</i></p>

	<p>Enact legal frameworks to empower farmers' associations in their management and economic role;</p> <p>Review the investment environment , land , banking laws to encourage private and farmers investment in agriculture;</p> <p>Increase active presence of small farm holders in policy dialogues through multi-stakeholder platforms;</p> <p>Strengthen producers organization roles in production, harvesting and marketing;</p> <p>Support economic and institutional reforms in the enabling environment to encourage faster and wider adoption of technologies and good agriculture practices;</p> <p>Support to well-defined farmers' registers within the Ministries of Agriculture to better target agricultural services and policies, social protection benefits and social assistance programmes.</p>	<p><i>Farmers bargaining powers increased</i></p>
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